



# OFFICE OF THE MAYOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CARLOS ALVAREZ  
MAYOR

May 2, 2006

VIA FACSIMILE

Honorable Governor Jeb Bush  
PL 05 The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

Re: HB 273 Enrolled

Honorable Governor Bush:

Recently-passed House Bill 273 (HB273) protecting billboards from obstruction by trees is a measure that I believe is against the best interests of the residents of Miami-Dade County and the State of Florida. At a time when green area and landscaping is increasingly cherished and scarce, we should be encouraging beautification projects and not discouraging them by restricting the placement of trees or – even worse – removing them, strictly for the benefit of private enterprise. This bill would set an unfortunate precedent for the entire state by placing commercial interests over those of the community.

One of my greatest concerns with this legislation is how local governments will be subject to the whims of billboard companies, while exposing our taxpayers to financial liabilities. The legislation inadequately protects the interests of our community, and the conditions for its enforcement are problematic and at risk for costly legal entanglements. Furthermore, I am in opposition of this bill because it is unclear which trees would be considered obstructive, it is unclear how to define the area surrounding the billboards eligible for protection, and the financial compensations that billboard companies may be entitled to are far too ambiguous.

As a result of unanswered questions like these, central to proper implementation of the measure, I respectfully request that you exercise your authority as Governor and veto HB 273. I thank you for your continued service to the residents of Florida and, specifically, Miami-Dade County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carlos", followed by a long, sweeping horizontal stroke.

Carlos Alvarez  
Mayor